

The Finnish Government is carrying out 26 key projects. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is leading preparations for five key projects in health and wellbeing. The main focus is on preventive measures and ensuring that care pathways flow smoothly, personnel does well and information systems operate properly. Gaps in levels of health and wellbeing will narrow down through health promotion and early support. People's wellbeing will improve and they will feel able to cope with different situations in life. Everyone will feel capable of making a difference, making choices and taking responsibility.

Key project 3

Programme to address reform in child and family services

In order to strengthen the wellbeing of all children, different types of families and personal resources, we are making a change towards child and family-centred services and an approach that promotes children's rights.

Changes planned in decision-making and the service system by 2019

The public sector is committed to an approach that promotes children's rights in decision-making and services. All services for children, adolescents and families will be pooled into a set of child and family-oriented services. The focus is on preventive services and early support and care, and where services are needed, access to them will take place at the right time. The changes also serve to curb the rise in costs for remedial services and, over a longer term, to reduce costs.

Expected changes in children's wellbeing by 2025

Parity among different kinds of children and families will have increased and inequality decreased. The resources, life management skills and engagement of children, young people and families will have improved they will feel that they are being seen and heard.

How are we bringing about this change?

1. We are promoting children's rights and applying a knowledge-based approach where child and family policies and services are being operated across administrative boundaries.

- We are creating tools for monitoring children's wellbeing, assessing how decision-making impacts children and devising child-focused budgeting. We are revamping training courses for professionals working in child, youth and family services.

2. We are introducing ways to provide low-threshold child, youth and family services that work seamlessly together.

- We are designing child and family-centred services that will operate in the municipalities and autonomous areas of the future by offering much freedom of choice. Digitalisation, multiplex actors and partnerships with associations and parishes will also be taken into account. To nourish children's wellbeing, we will bring more support to parenting, enhance services for divorcing families and strengthen school and early childhood education.

Contact information

Maria Kaisa Aula, Chairperson of the steering group, Licentiate of Social Sciences
e-mail mariakaisa.aula@luukku.com Tel. +358 50 530 9697

Marjo Lavikainen, Deputy Chairperson of the steering group, Ministerial Counsellor, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Department for Social and Health Services,
e-mail marjo.lavikainen@stm.fi, tel. +358 2951 63581